



# PFOA Contamination Southern New Hampshire Update

October 21, 2016

NHDES is issuing these email updates during our ongoing investigation into perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and other PFCs in southern New Hampshire drinking water. These updates will also be posted on our website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm>

## **Press Releases**

October 14, 2016 –NHDES and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Announce Agreement to Begin Pennichuck Water Line Extension to Litchfield Residents

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics are today announcing that work will soon begin to connect 360 Litchfield homes to the Pennichuck public water system. Unless unforeseen early winter weather interferes, 173 of the homes are expected to be connected by the end of this year. The work on the remaining Litchfield homes will be completed in 2017, and in the interim these homes will receive point-of-use (POU) filters until they are fully connected to the public water system.

To read the complete release, visit: <http://des.nh.gov/media/pr/2016/20161014-pennichuck-water-line.htm>

## **Private Well Sampling:**

	SAINT-GOBAIN AREA	TCI AMHERST	FORMER MERRIMACK LANDFILL	FORMER LL&S LANDFILL	TCI MANCHESTER
WELLS SAMPLED	722	200	111	44	4
RESULTS RECEIVED	655	198	108	44	4
≥70	178	17	2	0	0
SCHEDULED	12	1	2	0	0

New results were received this week, to view the current maps for all of these locations, please visit: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm> and look under the subheading: Sampling Maps and Data. Some of the maps now include surface water results that we have received. The legend on the maps have been changed to differentiate them from the water wells and monitoring wells.

If you live in this area and have not had your well tested and would like NHDES to test your well, please complete the sampling request form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHDES-S-03-008>

## **Update on PFOA and PFOS Rulemaking:**

The Final Proposed Rule to adopt the emergency Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard for PFOA and PFOS as regular rules was approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules meeting on October 20, 2016. The annotated and fixed text final proposals and the summary of comments/responses with the two

**Update on PFOA Test Results Investigation:**

At recent public meetings NHDES had informed stakeholders that it was researching why the results from one lab, Regional Water Authority (RWA), analyzing samples for PFOA seemed to be consistently lower than the other laboratories performing this work on samples from the southern NH PFOA site. Research included designing and implementing a blind performance evaluation test of involved labs, a large number of split-samples using multiple laboratories and analytical methods, and reaching out to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and national analytical chemistry experts in academia. NHDES concluded that RWA and the other labs were following USEPA's approved method, which instructed labs to quantify linear PFOA isomers but, unlike for certain other perfluorinated compounds, was silent on whether to include other forms of PFOA that occur as branched isomers. Accordingly, no lab was at fault. Rather, RWA was not reporting the presence of the branched isomers, whereas the other labs were. When the branched isomers are included, results are similar. NHDES notified USEPA who has issued a Technical Advisory further explaining this issue and instructing labs to include the branched isomers. It can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwanalyticalmethods/technical-advisory-laboratory-analysis-drinking-water-samples-perfluorooctanoic>

RWA is in the process of issuing revised reports that include the concentrations of any detected branched isomers in the results for the samples they analyzed and NHDES will provide this information to all affected well owners once the combined linear and branched isomer results are received.

**Update on Water Line Extensions:**

**Amherst:** Textiles Coated International, Inc. (TCI) has notified NHDES that it is working to connect seven properties in Amherst to public water this fall. These properties have wells that have been impacted with PFOA and are located within close proximity to the existing public water lines and/or will require a short extension of the public water lines. TCI previously indicated that they will fund preparation of a design and bid specification package for construction of a public water line to the remaining residents in Amherst currently receiving bottled water.

**Bedford:** NHDES and the Town of Bedford anticipate holding a public meeting, as soon as, the week of October 31 to provide updated information on the installation of point of use treatment systems (POUs) and the extension of public water. The specific date and location are to be determined.

**Litchfield:** See press release above

**Merrimack:** Saint-Gobain has notified NHDES that five properties in Merrimack whose wells have been impacted by PFOA have been connected to public water. Saint-Gobain is moving forward with making connections at an additional 16 properties with impacted wells.

**Site Investigations:**

**Amherst:** Soil and groundwater sampling at the former TCI property on Route 101A have been completed. Results are anticipated in the next four to six weeks.

**Merrimack:** Saint-Gobain has submitted a work plan for additional soil and groundwater testing around the MVD-4/5 supply wells, a copy of which is available on the NHDES OneStop system (Work plan: <http://www4.des.state.nh.us/IISProxy/IISProxy.dll?ContentId=4620207> and NHDES comments: <http://www4.des.state.nh.us/IISProxy/IISProxy.dll?ContentId=4623426>) Work is anticipated to take several weeks to complete, with results to follow.

**Public Water System Test Results:**

Earlier this year, NHDES requested that Public Water Systems in New Hampshire test for PFCs. We have tabulated the information and the posted results we have received thus far. To view the results, please visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm> by looking under the subheading: Public Water System Test Results.

**Upcoming Public Meetings:**

NHDES and Pennichuck Water Corporation, at the request of the Litchfield Board of Selectmen, invite and encourage Litchfield residents with impacted drinking water wells to attend a public meeting to discuss the public water supply project. At that time, affected property owners will have the opportunity to complete the necessary paperwork to help ensure the prompt connection of their homes to the public water supply. The meeting information is as follows:

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
Campbell High School auditorium  
1 Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH 03052

**Bottled Water Delivery/Availability:**

If you are eligible and have not received delivery of bottled water or have questions about receiving bottled water, please contact Andy Fulton, NHDES at (603) 271-7376 (for Bottled Water Inquiries Only). A listing is available on our webpage: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/documents/pfoa-bottledwaterareas-20160715.pdf>

**Public Inquiries**

If you have questions regarding the NHDES investigation into PFCs found in Southern NH drinking water, please call the Public Inquiry Line at (603) 271-9461 or visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm>. Also, please share this report with your interested family, neighbors or friends. Anyone interested in receiving the reports directly via email should email James Martin, NHDES Public Information Officer at [james.martin@des.nh.gov](mailto:james.martin@des.nh.gov)

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